

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate therein the subject matter of claim 2 that has been canceled. Claim 15 has been amended to provide its proper dependency. Claim 18 has been added.

Claim 2 has been indicated, together with claims 4-10 and 14-17, as being allowable upon having been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 that has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, which is tantamount to rewriting claim 2 in independent form, is in condition for allowance together with claims 3-9 and 11-17 dependent on claim 1, directly and indirectly, with claims 3 and 11-13 being allowable as being dependent on an allowable subject matter.

Claim 18 corresponds in scope to claim 10 that, as noted above, has also been indicated as being allowable, together with claim 15 dependent thereon, upon


being rewritten in independent form. Accordingly claim 18, which is claim 10 so rewritten, and claim 15, dependent thereon, are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

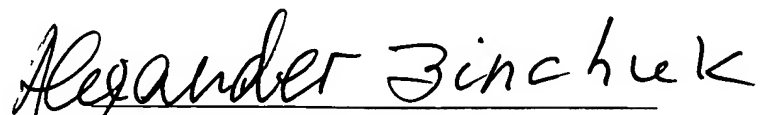
Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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